

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE**

**December 10, 2020
6:00 pm**

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on December 10, 2020, 6:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

The Mayor stated we are following COVID-19 recommendations for social distancing. Each person will have two empty seats between them and the next person, as well as empty rows. Citizens may sit in empty seats with no sign attached to them. People who cannot abide by these rules may be asked to leave the room. Plexiglass partitions have been installed between Councilmembers and staff sitting on the dais. He stated no one should approach the dais before or after the meeting and immediately exit after the meeting ends.

The Mayor stated with the uptick in COVID-19 cases, we are evaluating the possibility of going back to virtual meetings. We will inform the public when a decision is made.

Danny Lance, Tru Life Church, gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton (remotely), Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey, Councilmember Witt, City Manager Dorsey, City Attorney Litchford, and City Recorder Middleton.

City Attorney Litchford stated as a result of the Governor's executive orders, and Mayor Williams and City Manager Dorsey issuing a state of emergency, as well as Vice Mayor Helton attending the meeting virtually, a determination has been made in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are conducting this meeting partially by electronic means as well as a public meeting.

Presentation of the Audit - Chase Lloyd, Audit Manager with HHM, went through a summary of the audit. He stated the auditor's opinion was an unqualified opinion, which means it was a clean report. He stated Finance Director Qualls and her team did an amazing job. Mr. Lloyd stated the monthly records are accurate. The auditors did not discover any internal control or compliance issues, no fraud or illegal acts, and there were no significant matters to discuss with management. Mr. Lloyd stated the general fund is at \$5.1 million which is very strong, and the fund balance was up by \$1 million. Overall, it was a good audit.

City Manager Dorsey thanked the auditors and thanked Ms. Qualls for the good audit. Ms. Qualls commended her team and the Department heads for closely watching their budgets.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes November 12, 2020 Council Meeting
- B. Approval of October 2020 Financial Report

C. Declaration of Surplus Property

Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Mayor Williams provided an update from last council meeting regarding the new soccer fields at Camp Jordan. The Mayor stated he responded to the questions from the last meeting and met with Mr. Burgess at City Hall. He also stated that Communication from Citizens is not a question and answer session, that Councilmembers could respond during their communications.

Robbie Burgess, 6712 Jordan Run Road, is concerned that the City had no communication with the residents regarding the construction of soccer fields behind Jordan Run. He is also concerned about noise, lighting, flooding, and humans walking through to the fields. He had several other questions, but Mayor Williams told Mr. Burgess that he has gone over his time limit. The Mayor will send him answers to his questions. Mr. Burgess wants Council to take a vote not to construct field #3. The Mayor stated he can open the floor to see if any Councilmember wants to add anything to New Business.

Linda Woodham, 6700 Jordan Run Road, is concerned about noise and the natural habitat for animals where the soccer fields are being constructed in Camp Jordan.

Roy Keown, 6616 Graston Avenue, is with the provost for the Alhambra Shrine. He thanked the council for donating a vehicle for the Shrine Temple. He stated it will not be used on the road, but only for parades, the circus, and other special events.

Rachel Pryor, 6710 Jordan Run Road, is concerned with noise, lights, and flooding at the new soccer fields in Camp Jordan. She requested that Council reconsider the location.

Kathy Fields, 6726 Jordan Run Road, stated she does not have much room in her backyard and now there is a mound of dirt behind her yard. Mayor Williams stated the dirt is a temporary situation.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle stated he has heard discussion at places he has gone about the mound of dirt on the new soccer fields at Camp Jordan.

Councilmember Witt thanked the residents for coming to the meeting to discuss their issues. She also thanked the people who voted for her and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Chauncey had nothing at this time.

Vice Mayor Helton had nothing at this time.

Mayor Williams thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He also stated he has replied to emails and has offered solutions to the neighbors' issues regarding the new soccer fields. The Mayor also discussed the following:

- He was honored to participate in Catherine Neely's celebration of life this past Saturday and to present a proclamation to the family.
- The Library will have virtual story time on December 15th and Christmas Storytime on Dec. 22nd.
- Due to an uptick in COVID-19 cases in Hamilton County, we are evaluating our public meeting policy and may consider going back to virtual meetings in order to protect the health of our citizens.
- The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Communication from City Manager:

City Manager Dorsey discussed the following:

- Camp Jordan Timeline -
 - 1975 – Park was established.
 - 1992 – City acquired extra land at park for fields
 - 2001 – Map shows 3 soccer fields in a strip in the area of the park behind Jordan Run.
 - 2005 – City acquired strip of land behind Jordan Run
 - 2005 – Camp Jordan Master Plan shows soccer fields behind houses in Jordan Run.
 - 2019 (April) – Assistant City Manager Custer dealt with the conversion. These fields were shown on the map of Camp Jordan.
 - 2020 (January 9) – Discussed Request for Qualifications for site design and construction of fields.
 - 2020 (January 23) – Council approved Resolution No. 3014 for an agreement with ASA Engineering for site design and construction administration services related to the Camp Jordan Soccer Complex.
 - 2020 (February 7) – Council approved Resolution No. 3026 for engineering services for the Camp Jordan Soccer and Drainage Improvement Project (ASA Engineering)
 - 2020 (August 13) – City Manager Dorsey discussed the plans and going out for bids for construction of fields.
 - 2020 (August 27) – Discussed resolution for bids for soccer fields coming up at the next meeting.
 - 2020 (September 10) – Approved Resolution No. 3076 to approve bids for construction of four new soccer fields.
 - 2020 (September 24) – Council approved Resolution No. 3082 authorizing incurrence of debt for soccer field expansion and parking lot expansion, and Resolution No. 3083 authorizing the loan agreement to pay for soccer field expansion and parking lot expansion.

Mr. Dorsey also discussed the following regarding the construction of soccer fields.

- Some of the reasons the City choose this site – Utility infrastructure is there, restroom facilities by Osborne Field, concessions, and playground are close. One of the main things deals with topography; they are just having to do leveling. Only grass will be going in.
 - LED lights are not in this phase, but they are putting in conduits for the future.
 - At the closest point, it is 60.8 feet to the edge of the fields.
 - Parks are built in flood plains because nothing else can be built there. There was no damage to the soccer fields from the flood in April.
 - Two homes were in Jordan Run before the City acquired the land in 1992; 13 were there after 1992. From 6712 – 6700 Jordan Run Road, there are no soccer fields.
 - Since 1992, plans have been in place and previous administrations talked about building soccer fields in this location as far back as 2001, almost 20 years.
 - Assistant City Manager Custer stated that renderings were done to create a regional soccer complex, supported by the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County. Former Mayor Mike Steele was heavily involved in the process. Feedback from various groups indicated that this was the best location because it is so easy to get to from other states.
- The school zone lights at San Hsi and Keeble will be coming down. This school zone is not close to a school; it is only there for a bus stop. Chief Allen stated the Police are stepping up enforcement for drivers passing buses who have their stop signs out.
 - December 14th, according to Charter, will be the oath of office ceremony for Councilmember Witt and Vice Mayor Helton. The Councilmembers and the Judge who swears them in will participate via Zoom.

Old Business: None

New Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 3098 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ BY MAYOR WILLIAMS TO THE EAST RIDGE BEER BOARD - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams thanked all the individuals who filled out applications for board appointments. At this time, the Mayor announced Leonard Ezell as his appointment. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3098, with Leonard Ezell as the Mayor's appointment. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3099 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ BY COUNCILMEMBER WITT TO THE EAST RIDGE BEER BOARD - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Councilmember Witt announced that her appointment is David Tyler. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Cagle, to approve Resolution No. 3099 with David Tyler as Councilmember Witt's appointment. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3100 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO MEMORIALIZE THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF _____ AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE BEER

BOARD - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams announced that his appointment as Chairperson to the Beer Board is Carnell Storie. Councilmember Witt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3100, appointing Carnell Storie as Chairperson to the Beer Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3101 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT BY MAYOR WILLIAMS OF _____ TO THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY

BOARD - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams announced that his appointment to the Library Board is Dr. Jessica Crowe. Councilmember Chauncey made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to approve Resolution No. 3101, with Dr. Jessica Crowe as Mayor Williams appointment to the Library Board. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3102 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF _____ TO THE EAST RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD - City Attorney

Litchford read on caption. Mayor Williams stated this is an appointment by the entire Council. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Chauncey, to approve Resolution No. 3102, with Ann Waterhouse being the Council’s appointment. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 3103 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO DONATE A 2009 CHEVROLET IMPALA POLICE VEHICLE TO THE ALHAMBRA SHRINE IN CHATTANOOGA - City Attorney Litchford read on caption. Chief Allen stated this vehicle

was declared surplus earlier in this meeting and is recommending the donation to the Alhambra Shrine. Councilmember Cagle made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Helton, to approve Resolution No. 3103. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

At this time, the Mayor stated he will entertain any new business for this agenda.

Councilmember Cagle made a motion for the City to stop work on the new soccer fields at Camp Jordan until Council could arrive at a solution to satisfy the neighbors. The motion died for lack of a second.

Discussion of Tentative Agenda Items for the January 14, 2021 Council Meeting (see Attachment A)

9. New Business:

- A. **ORDINANCE NO. ____ - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 8 OF THE EAST RIDGE MUNICIPAL CODE PERTAINING TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RETAIL PACKAGE LIQUOR STORES AND THE SALE OF WINE IN RETAIL FOOD STORES (1st reading)** – City Manager

Dorsey stated he will provide a draft of this ordinance to Council if they would like one. He is still working on the language, with questions regarding square footage, number of stores, etc. Mr. Dorsey also stated we are working on updating our municipal code to include all ordinances and changes in state law. Hopefully, it will be done by the spring. Mayor Williams stated that Council would be able to tweak the ordinance to add restrictions, number of stores, etc. Mr. Cagle would like a copy of Section 8 of the code book and all amendments to that section. Mr. Dorsey is also including wine in grocery stores in the new ordinance because the former City Attorney did not do an ordinance to include this in the municipal code.

Assistant City Manager Custer would like to add the following to the January 14th agenda:

- Public Hearing and 1st reading of an ordinance to rezone 1505 Truman Avenue from C-2 to R-1. The owners are selling, and it must be rezoned before the closing.
- Public Hearing and 1st reading of an ordinance to rezone 845 and 855 Donaldson Road from R-1 to R-2. These have always been duplexes but were zoned urban residential in 1985 as R-1.

The Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**MINUTES OF THE
50th INAUGURAL AND
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF
THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE,
TENNESSEE**

**December 14, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

The City Council of the City of East Ridge, Tennessee met pursuant to notice on December 14, 2020. Mayor Williams called the meeting to order.

Mayor Williams stated we are conducting this meeting in person and by electronic means via Governor Lee's executive order. At this time, City Manager Dorsey read a statement from City Attorney Litchford who is attending remotely.

"Mark is attending remotely, and he has asked that I provide the public notification pursuant to the Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 16 which was extended most recently by Executive Order No. 65 on October 28, 2020. As the public is aware, the City of East Ridge reverted back to public meetings back in October but due to various circumstances, we are conducting this meeting in a joint public-virtual manner in an effort to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. As a result of the State of Emergency that has been declared by the Governor, the City Council has made a determination that it is necessary and proper to conduct this meeting virtually in accordance with the Governor's respective Executive Orders. I would ask that Ms. Middleton incorporate into the minutes that the City Council has made the determination that conducting this meeting virtually is in the best interest to protect the health, safety and welfare of the community. "

Reverend Daniel Beard gave the invocation, and everyone joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Williams, Vice Mayor Helton (remotely), Councilmember Cagle, Councilmember Chauncey, Councilmember Witt (remotely), City Manager Dorsey, and City Recorder Middleton. City Attorney Litchford was present remotely.

Welcome & Opening Remarks:

Mayor Williams welcomed and thanked everyone. He also congratulated both Vice Mayor Helton and Councilmember Witt on their re-elections. He stated it has been a privilege to work with both Ms. Helton and Ms. Witt and feels that they have had a significant impact on the progress the City is making.

Administering Oath of Office:

At this time, the Honorable Kyle Hedrick administered the Oath of Office (via Zoom) to the Honorable Esther Helton and to the Honorable Andrea Witt.

Vice Mayor Helton thanked her family and her fiancé Marty Haynes for the work they did during the campaign. She is looking forward to serving and to the future of East Ridge.

Councilmember Witt thanked her husband David, her son Jeremy, and all her supporters. She stated she was blessed to have been elected.

Election of Vice Mayor:

Mayor Williams opened the floor for nominations for Vice Mayor. Vice Mayor Helton made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Witt, to appoint Councilmember Chauncey as Vice Mayor. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Mr. Chauncey stated it was an honor and thanked everyone.

Concluding Remarks from Mayor and Councilmembers:

Councilmember Cagle congratulated Councilmembers Helton and Witt, and Vice Mayor Chauncey. He also wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Helton congratulated Vice Mayor Chauncey and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Councilmember Witt congratulated Vice Mayor Chauncey. She stated she has enjoyed the last two years and she wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Vice Mayor Chauncey congratulated Councilmembers Helton and Witt and stated it has been an honor to serve with both of them. He stated they have worked hard, and it has paid off.

Mayor Williams congratulated Councilmember Helton and Councilmember Witt and thanked them for their service. He thanked Ms. Helton for serving as Vice Mayor and congratulated Mr. Chauncey for being elected Vice Mayor. He also thanked all who attended virtually or in person. He stated East Ridge has experienced amazing growth and great things are continuing to happen. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.